



Where  $Y_2$  is S, O or NH (preferably O or NH),  $n$  is 2 or more (e.g., up to 4, 5 or 6) and  $R_5$  is an hydrolytically susceptible linking moiety comprising C, H and two or more heteroatoms which can be O, S or Ni, the O, S and N atoms all participating in hydrolytically susceptible bonds or ether or thioether bonds.  $R^5$  can be or include a segment of PAP (such as PEG), which preferably has molecular weight within the above-described preferred ranges. Aside from PAP, which may not be present,  $R^5$  preferably has molecular weight of less than 5,000, more preferably less than 1,000. A large number of examples of  $R^5$  are described herein.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 4-12. The remaining claims 1-3 on file are amended as follows.

1. (Original) A composition comprising a pre-formed hydrolytically susceptible polyanionic polymer comprising:  
at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond; and  
linked to the linking moiety at least two polyanionic polymer segments, wherein all polyanionic polymer segments in the polymer are linked to the whole by a said linking moiety, and 90% or more of the polyanionic polymer segments in the composition have molecular weight of 50 kd or less.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein 90% or more of the polyanionic polymer segments in the composition have molecular weight of 40 kd or less.

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the average molecular weight of the polyanionic ~~acids~~ polymer segments in the composition is from 20 kd to 40 kd.

4-12. Cancelled.